

April 30, 2009 9:57 AM

WASHINGTON, DC - Members of New Mexico's Congressional Delegation today received a comprehensive briefing on the status of the H1N1 and state preparedness by officials from the New Mexico Department of Health and Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The delegation members, who have also been briefed on the virus by federal officials, offered continued support for the state's efforts.

Topics covered in the briefing included updates on the identified possible cases of H1N1 in the state and precautions in place for individuals who came into contact with potential carriers, coordination with schools and first responders, the current flow of border traffic and the state's stockpile of antiviral medication to treat the virus. The delegation also inquired about efforts to keep the public informed, including Spanish language and Native American outreach.

"Our state officials are working diligently to make sure the public is informed of the continually developing flu threat and to ensure the response to all possible cases is both swift and appropriate," said Senator Tom Udall, who coordinated the briefing. "Our delegation is also prepared to aid and support the state's efforts in any way possible. For now, I would encourage people to take the same steps they would to prevent spreading any other illness, including washing your hands, covering your mouth if you cough or sneeze and not exposing others if you feel sick."

"Ensuring that all levels of government are communicating and working together, especially in the border communities I represent in southern New Mexico, is critical to getting New Mexicans the information and services they need to stay healthy," said Rep. Harry Teague. "I understand why people are nervous about the swine flu virus, but I think it's important for the public to remain calm and take the common sense steps we've all heard about to prevent the spread of the virus."

"The current situation requires planning, and I am encouraged by the steps that New Mexico is taking to prepare for various contingencies," said Rep. Ben Ray Luján. "Coordination and preparation is critically important. I am glad that we are able to work together to face the current situation, and I will continue to work with state and local officials to ensure that they have the resources they need as the situation progresses."

"I appreciate all the work being done by the Departments of Health and Homeland Security to keep all New Mexicans informed, calm, healthy and ready to act," said Rep. Martin Heinrich. "For the time being, I encourage everyone to be smart, stay calm and keep washing your hands."

"From both a state and federal perspective, I am confident we are well prepared," Senator Jeff Bingaman said. "But there are common-sense precautions each of us can take to prevent the spread of the flu, including washing our hands and staying home if we're not feeling well."

[Go back](#)